

members one was a Malayala Jenmi, who had recently submitted his resignation. The resignation has been forwarded to the Government. If the privilege prayed for be granted now, there would be a chance of exercising the same in connection with the nomination of a non-official member in the place of the Jenmi member. Of the 7 non-official members, two were Nairs, one was a Brahmin, one a Christian, one a Shanar, one an Ezhava and one a Malayala Jenmi. The Member prayed that the privilege of electing non-official members might be granted to the Committee with the qualification that each of the above communities be allowed to elect a member from amongst their respective communities.

Dewan's reply.—The Government are inclined to grant the Committee the privilege of electing a few of the non-official members. But the last portion of the Members' suggestion does not seem to be feasible. Once the privilege of election is conferred on the Committee, it would not be proper on principle to impose any restrictions on the Committee in regard to the method of using that privilege. If the people would not use the power of election in the interests of *all* communities, it would be better for the Government to reserve to themselves the right of making nominations in respect of a few seats, to secure the interests of the unrepresented minority. The matter will be considered.

96. Sanitary needs of the town of Trivandrum with special reference to the present system of drainage.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that the Town Improvement Committee of Trivandrum had of late been the subject of much adverse criticism from the general public and that the Government had also not been sparing in their condemnation of the Committee. The criticism was confined to defects in sanitation, while the Government were mainly concerned with the general financial condition of the Committee.

Regarding the first question, namely, the one affecting the general sanitation and public health of Trivandrum, the Member referred to the following points for consideration:—

(1) *Condition of the drains.*—The condition of the drains was far from satisfactory. There were natural facilities for the introduction of an efficient system of drainage. For that purpose, the town might be divided into two divisions, the northern half consisting of ridges and valleys and the southern half, which was one consistent and continuous plain up to the sea (a straight line drawn from Kannanmala to Killiyar). There would be no difficulty in constructing drains in the northern half as the rain-water and sewage would flow along the slopes to the valleys below and thence out into the several natural water-courses without the help of regular drains. In the southern half, the houses were situated in extensive compounds except in the densely populated parts and the rain and sewage water found its way into the backyards, where, owing to the sandy nature of the soil and the extent of the plots, there was no stagnation whatever. Attention had to be mainly devoted to the collection and disposal of rain and sewage water only in the more congested areas where masonry drains had been constructed. Grave complaints existed regarding the same. The chief defects were,—

(a) Levels were defective in certain places and proper outlets had not been provided. The bed-fall of certain drains, such as those at Murippalam in the Chalai Ward and at Valiachalai, was not sufficient to have a self-cleansing velocity.

(b) The system of drains was unconnected with one another and could not properly be flushed from one head.

(c) Although the Committee was supposed to be in charge of drain-cleansing, they were seldom or never consulted by the D. P. W. in the construction of new drains or the extension of old ones. Such drain construction was mainly intended by the D. P. W. to protect the edges of the roadway and to carry off rain water, though it was a source of positive injury to public health. The dual control in the matter of planning and carrying out the drainage works impaired efficiency to a considerable extent. There were also instances in which the recommendations

of the Committees for the extension of drains to safe-guard public health met with no response from the P. W. D.

(d) The absence of a general scheme determining the ultimate destination, the final outfall of the drains of the city, was a very grave defect.

(e) Lastly, the present method of flushing the drains with a few pots of water was another serious defect.

The Member then made the following suggestions to remedy the evils :--

(i) It was necessary to secure an accurate topographical map of the city, showing all the streets, water-courses, hills, valleys, and other physical features including elevations above an established point, generally known as the *city datum*. With such a map, the grades of various lines of sewers might be established and the possible outlets for the whole system located. The drains should have sufficient fall to give what was known as the self-cleansing velocity.

(ii) An investigation should be conducted as to how the existing drains in the congested and low-lying areas such as the Fort, Puthen Street, Chalai, etc., could be combined by providing what were known as intercepting drains. After having done that, an outfall drain should be constructed to the lowest available outfall station which was not subject to river floods.

The Member did not ask for the whole of the above scheme being carried out at once, but he said that considerable relief could be obtained with much less expenditure by undertaking a programme of work which should aim for the present at utilising, in the best manner possible, the existing drains towards the development of the larger scheme outlined above. The minor scheme suggested was as follows:—

(a) A proper survey regarding the level of the city should be taken and the defects in the bed-fall and level wherever found in the existing lateral drains should be put in order.

(b) Construction of new drains should be stopped unless an abundant supply of water and facilities for flushing them were ensured, except of course extension of the present system of drains so as to lead them to the nearest natural outfall, such as the Kuriyathi *Ela* and the Thekkanankara Channel.

(c) The existing trunk drains should be repaired and extended.

(d) Proper facilities for flushing the drains should be provided for. By means of hand fire-engines the water from the Kochar and the Vaniyankulam tank could be very well utilised for flushing the Chalai drains. Where natural facilities did not exist for flushing, tube-wells should be sunk.

In that connection, the Member stated that there were 14 miles of masonry drains to be flushed in the town and there were only 30 drain-cleansers in all. He requested that their number be increased and the Committee enabled to meet the burden by an additional grant. According to the opinion of one of the best Engineers of the State, the expenses might well fall within Rs. 30,000 for the minor scheme, Rs. 5,000 for flushing, Rs. 1,000 for repairing existing drains and Rs. 14,000 for the extensions. In view of the urgency of the question, the Member prayed that it might receive the earnest attention of the Government.

(2) *Prevalence of fever in the town.*—There was a growing impression in the minds of the public that the city was being gradually converted into a hot-bed of fevers. He then stated that from 1088 to 1090 the number of fever cases rose from 10,336 to 15,358 or an increase of 50%. The General Hospital figures alone were appalling. In 1088, there were 4,803 fever cases which in 1090 rose to 7,361, or, again a rise of 50%. It was regrettable that, of those cases, 1,502 in 1088 and 1,798 in 1090, or about 23% were of uncertain origin. Again, the General Hospital returns showed that, in 1088, there were 1,039 cases of malarial fever, while there were 1,710 cases in 1089 and 2,161 in 1090. The returns from the Native Dispensaries for

the three years also showed an increase of 50% and more in malarial and other kinds of fever.

Year.	Typhoid.	Malarial.	Other fevers.
1088	100	323	1,297
1089	232	348	1,353
1090	184	732	1,503

The Member then submitted that, though the figures given by him might not be exhaustive, they never erred on the wrong side and that he had not taken into account cases of treatment by private individuals.

The Member, therefore, requested that a special officer be deputed to enquire into the causes of the vast and increasing outbreak of fever cases and to suggest remedies for their prevention and cure.

(3) *Collection and disposal of nightsoil and rubbish.*—Nightsoil and rubbish carts were seen making their slow way along the main thoroughfares of the city all through the day. The system was due to the paucity in the number of sweepers and scavengers and carts. There was not even one sweeper for one mile of road. For a population of 66,000 there were only 58 scavengers. To make the system more efficient, the Member prayed that an additional grant might be allowed by the Government.

(4) *Water Supply.*—The question of supplying good drinking water to the town was becoming more and more important. Most of the wells dried up and fever and dysentery generally followed the drought, as the people used bad water for drinking purposes. If the Government took the initiative, it might be expected that the people would readily and gladly pay for the very valuable boon of good drinking water. The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to allot a special grant for sinking at least a dozen wells in the town costing about Rs. 2,500.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to take action to satisfy the public needs detailed above, as early as practicable.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will receive careful consideration.

97. The policy of the Government towards the Municipal institutions in the State.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that he proposed to deal with the subject under the following heads:—

(1) *The constitution of the Municipal Councils.*—Of the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State, Trivandrum, Kayenkulam and Shencotta were given 10 non-official members each; Nagercoil, Quilon, Kottayam and Alleppey had 9 non-official members each; and the others, excepting Alwaye and Padmanabhapuram, had only 7 non-officials each. The principle or policy underlying the distribution of seats in the various councils was defective. The population, extent or other importance did not appear to have been taken as the basis on which the distribution was effected. The Member requested that the defect might be remedied by increasing the number of non-official members in the major Committees.

Regarding the number of elected seats in the councils, the Member pointed out that, according to section 9 of the Municipal Bill, the maximum number of councillors was 18, of which not more than one-third should be officers of the Government. Section 10 provided that tax-payers and inhabitants of a Municipality or part thereof might elect a number of councillors for the approval of the Government which should not be less than one-third of the whole. Therefore, if the Government chose to fix the number of non-official elected numbers at the minimum in the Bill, then, allowing the maximum in the total number of councillors, some councils would have only 6 elected members, whereas even now when the maximum was only 12 and 13, there were 7 and 8 non-official elected seats, *i. e.*, 58% and 61%. The reduction would affect the Committees at Nagercoil, Quilon, Trivandrum, Alleppey and Kottayam. It was, therefore, desirable that the minimum number of non-official elected seats should be fixed at least at one-half of the total number of members instead of at one-third as in the Bill.